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**Effective:** April 1, 1995

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**96.00 Utility Accommodation**  
**96.20 Location Requirements**

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**Supersedes:** March 1, 1992

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By: Director, Bureau of Highway Operations

Page 1 of 2

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## A. General Location

Utility facilities shall be located in such a manner in order to minimize the need for later adjustment to:

1. Accommodate proposed highway improvements.
2. Permit servicing or expanding such lines without obstruction or interference to the free flow of highway traffic.
3. Provide adequate vertical and horizontal clearance between an underground utility facility and a structure or other highway facility to allow maintenance of all facilities.
4. Be outside of the 45-degree cone of support for the footings of all highway structures.

## B. Crossing Location

Utility facilities shall cross the highway on a line as nearly perpendicular to the highway alignment as possible.

Conditions which are generally unsuitable or undesirable for underground crossings should be avoided. Crossing locations to be avoided include:

1. Deep cuts.
2. Near footings of bridges and retaining walls.
3. Across highway intersections at grade or ramp terminals.
4. At cross drains where the flow of water may be obstructed.
5. Within basins of an underpass drained by a pump.
6. In wet or rocky terrain where it will be difficult to attain minimum bury.

### **C. Underground Longitudinal Location**

The longitudinal location of underground utility facilities within the right-of-way shall provide as much clearance from the traveled way as conditions will allow. Such lines shall be on uniform alignment and be located at or as near as practical to the right-of-way line.

To maintain a reasonably uniform utility alignment, location variances may be allowed when irregular-shaped portions of the right-of-way extend beyond the normal right-of-way limits.

### **D. Above Ground Longitudinal Location**

The longitudinal location of above ground utility facilities shall be outside of the clear zone. Such lines shall be on uniform alignment and be located at or as near as practical to the right-of-way line. Exceptions may be granted when no other location is feasible or when the clear zone extends to the right-of-way line.

If any above ground utility facility is within the clear zone or is determined to be in a location that has a higher than average accident potential, the Department may require:

1. The utility facility to be of approved yielding or breakaway construction, or
2. The utility facility to be protected by a Department approved barrier such as beam guard, crash cushion, etc.

To maintain a reasonably uniform utility alignment, location variances may be allowed when irregular-shaped portions of the right-of-way extend beyond the normal right-of-way limits.

### **E. Existing Utilities**

When a utility facility exists within the right-of-way of an existing or proposed highway, it may remain provided it does not adversely affect highway safety based on sound engineering judgement and economic considerations. The existing facility shall be relocated if:

1. It conflicts with any construction activities, or
2. It is located longitudinally under the pavement or shoulder for a reconditioning or reconstruction project.

Exceptions may be granted for 1 and 2 above based on sound engineering judgement and economic considerations.

### **F. Subsurface Utility Engineering**

The use of subsurface utility engineering (SUE) to locate buried facilities is approved by the Department. Any utility installation using SUE shall be noted on the permit form.